Distribution of Foodgrains through PDS

1243. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for distribution of foodgrains through PDS for BPL families;

(b) whether all the States and the Union Territories have lifted their quota of foodgrains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Under Targeted Public Distribution System a quantity of 25 kg. of foodgrains (rice or wheat) per month for each family below poverty line (BPL) is being allotted to States/UTs at BPL rates. At present a monthly quantity of 7.84 lakh tonnes of rice and 5.52 lakh tonnes of wheat is being allotted to the States/UTs under BPL.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The lifting of foodgrains (rice and wheat) by States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) depends on several factors, the most important being the parity between the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) and the open market prices; availability of foodgrains in the open market; purchasing power of PDS consumers especially those belonging to the below poverty line (BPL) category; quality considerations; and the food habits of the people in different regions of the country.

Wheat import from Australia

† 1244. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat has been imported from Australia without necessity;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far to investigate the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) On a reference from the Government, CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) into the matter relating to import of 15 lakh MTs of Wheat from the Australia during 1998. Consequent on the completion of the PE, CBI has registered a regular case on 11.9.2001.

Problems of rice growers in Karnataka

1245. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to take all precautionary steps to prevent recurrence of the problems faced by the rice growers in the State on account of lack of proper procurement policy of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last Kharif and Rabi seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/intended to be taken in this regard to protect interests of the paddy farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) ar.d (b) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh meet Union Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, and requested to take necessary steps to ensure smooth procurement of rice during the Kharif marketing Season, 2001-2002.

(c) During the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001 (October-September), 71.72 lakh MTs of rice was procured in Andhra Pradesh as against 54.98 Lakh MTs during the preceding year. The procurement during the Kharif Marketing